

PATHWAYS



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PATHWAYS

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of the Benedictine Sisters

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Dear Friends of the Monastery,

This spring, as we transitioned from the quiet reflection of Lent to the joyful celebration of Easter, our hearts were filled with gratitude for the gifts of faith, renewal, and community. The sacred journey of Lent invited us into deeper prayer and reflection, culminating in the hope and light of the Resurrection – a reminder that new life is always possible.

Spring has brought beauty and energy to our Monastery grounds, and with it, many moments of grace. In April, we had the joy of honoring the many volunteers who so generously share their time and talents with us. At our Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, we expressed our deep gratitude for their presence in our lives. Their service is a living example of Benedictine hospitality and love in action.

At the same time, our hearts were saddened by the passing of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis. His intellectual depth, quiet humility, and enduring commitment to the poor left a lasting mark on the world. We give thanks for his life of service and entrust him to the eternal embrace of God.

We join the global Church in prayer and gratitude as we welcome our new Holy Father, Pope Leo. His election marks a new chapter of leadership rooted in faith, humility, and service. As Benedictines, we are especially attentive to his call for unity, dialogue, and care for the most vulnerable values that echo deeply with our own monastic tradition. May the Holy Spirit guide Pope Leo in wisdom and strength as he shepherds the People of God through the challenges and opportunities of our time.

In June, the Sisters will enter a sacred and significant time in our Community's life. We will begin a period of discernment, prayerfully and thoughtfully entering into the process of electing a new Prioress. This journey is guided by prayer, dialogue, and deep trust in the Holy Spirit. We humbly ask for your prayers and support as we open our hearts to the future God is preparing for us.



POPE LEO XIV



— POPE FRANCIS —

December 17, 1936 – April 21, 2025

We are also blessed to host the Congregational Chapter Meeting the week of July 20. This gathering will bring together Sisters from the ten member monasteries of our Congregation for reflection, conversation, and shared visioning as we continue to respond to the needs of our time.

There will also be time for fun and celebrations in our summer days. In August we will celebrate the goodness of our life together in our annual commissioning event and honor the jubilarians for their years of commitment to the Benedictine way of life and to the ministries in which they served.

May these coming months bring you moments of peace, joy, and the gentle presence of God. Thank you for being part of our extended community. Your prayers, support, and friendship are a true blessing to us.

With gratitude and blessings,

Sister Beverly

Sister Beverly Raway, OSB
Prioress, St. Scholastica Monastery

Living Icons

by Sister Therese Carson, OSB

Long before I left Michigan for Duluth, a friend invited me to attend an icon writing workshop. I was familiar with religious icons – formalized, highly symbolic images of God, saints, or other holy figures – but at the workshop the other beginners and I learned so much more. We spent a week immersed in the Orthodox artistic tradition, where every line, color, and detail convey a religious truth. Shining gold leaf speaks of the light of God, white is purity, and blue indicates the things of heaven – and so our Blessed Mother wears a blue mantle over white and has a halo of gold leaf. Red speaks of the blood of earthly life, green of springtime and hope and renewal, black of death. The very brush strokes convey meaning to the educated. Using this rich visual language, the iconographer ‘writes’ an icon in the same way authors of Christian scripture wrote with words, teaching truths with a visual language.

Over time I wrote four icons in the Russian Orthodox tradition under the tutelage of Tatiana from the Prosopon School of Iconography. We learned to use traditional egg tempera paint, an emulsion of ground mineral pigments in egg yolk, water, and alcohol. Asked how long it takes to master the art, Tatiana said it takes ten years – fifteen if you must first unlearn Western painting techniques.

Sadly, I never found time to learn to do it well. I was modestly successful in learning the skills needed, first using egg tempera and then with another iconographer using acrylics; but after a serious shoulder injury at the Monastery, I stepped away from icon writing and became involved in other ministries. Unfinished icons now sit on the art table in the corner of my room, gathering dust and waiting for an opportunity to complete them. I know my best works remained earth-bound, falling short of the transcendence that is the goal of a master iconographer: to completely surrender the process to God and let the marks of human labor fade into the Holy. An icon, done in the right spirit, opens a window into

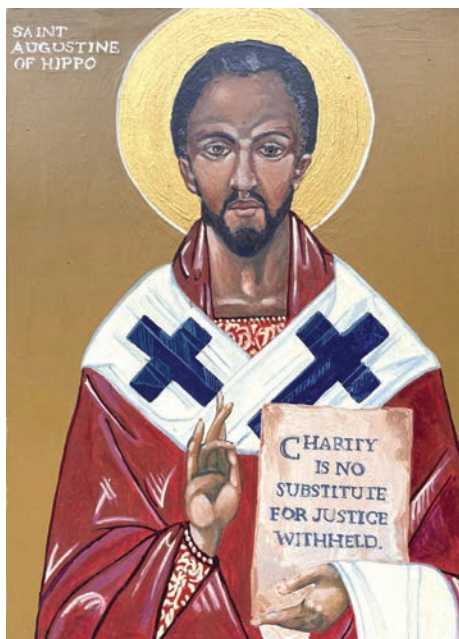
Heaven. One who prays before it is drawn into deep contemplative prayer, stripped of pretense, stands in the presence of God and hears God’s voice.

Some years ago, I spoke about icons with residents and guests at the Benedictine Living Community next door to the Monastery. One person asked, “What icon is your favorite?” and I couldn’t answer. I could have named one by a master, like the *Virgin of Vladimir*, or perhaps the last one I completed or intended to write, or the one I would probably never try for fear of failure (also the *Virgin*). But that isn’t it.

As my relationship with God deepened through living as a Benedictine Sister, I have come to think of the word “icon” in a different way. These are not painted by hand but created by God. They are you and me, when we surrender to God’s will and fully live out our faith. We become icons of God’s face when we look beyond our own neediness to the suffering around us, when we see each other through the lens of our own trauma and grief and are moved to love. God inspires us to join in solidarity, for all are blessed and beloved children of God.

We may pray for an easy life, but how selfish that would make us! Instead,

God allows life to hurt us, physically and emotionally, so that we recognize each other’s pain, turn outward, and bring healing. We see the face of God everywhere, including in our own mirror, as we support each other and become part of living, loving communities. Let go of selfishness and begin to love. Honor God in each other, for we are all shining sparks of God’s life that fill us till we overflow with joy and laughter. When we live like this, we each become the living icon of God.



Unfinished icon of St. Augustine of Hippo
by Sister Therese Carson

“Contemplation is the practice of coming to see the presence of God at the center of the natural world, in the midst of our personal lives, as the light that emblazons our scriptures and so leads us into even greater insight into God.” ~Joan Chittister, OSB, The Monastic Heart

Stay At It: Praying for Vocations

by Sister Lisa Maurer, OSB

There is a story about a stonecutter who, day after day, hammers away at a rock. He may strike it a hundred times without seeing a single crack. But with just one more blow, the rock suddenly splits open. It wasn't the final strike that caused the break—it was the persistence and steady effort of all the blows that came before.

Like the stonecutter, we are called to stay at it—especially when it comes to praying for vocations. We can't give up or grow discouraged. Nor can we become weary. We must pray with steady hearts, trusting that the Lord of the Harvest hears and will answer.

Here are six reasons to keep praying faithfully for vocations:

Stay at it because Jesus commands it.

Jesus himself urges us to pray for laborers: "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest." (Matthew 9:37–38)

Stay at it because the Church needs vocations

The Church needs people to say "yes" to religious and priestly life—those who are committed to prayer, service, and community. The creativity, faith, and energy of a new generation of Sisters, Brothers, and Priests is vital for continuing the Church's mission in an ever-changing world.



Stay at it to encourage and inspire.

Sometimes all it takes is a simple word of encouragement to spark someone's interest in a religious vocation. Many respond with disbelief: "Me? I could never do that." But how can someone discern a call they've never considered? Our prayers – and our voices – can plant the seed.

Stay at it to support discernment.

Discernment is not a solitary journey. Those listening for God's call need our prayerful support. Whether or not we know someone personally who is discerning, we can still pray for clarity, courage, and peace for all those seeking God's path for their lives.

Stay at it to strengthen those already serving.

Our prayers can be a powerful source of grace for those living out their vocation. For the weary, the tempted, the discouraged, prayer can renew joy, bring peace, and reignite the fire of their original call.

Stay at it for your own growth.

Praying for vocations draws us deeper into our own relationship with God. As we pray for others to discover and live their call, we become more aware of our own. Prayer aligns our hearts with God's purpose and keeps us open to the movements of the Spirit in our lives.

A month before his death, Pope Francis reminded us of the importance of persistence:

"Dear beloved, the Church is alive and fruitful when she generates new vocations. Our world looks, often unknowingly, for witnesses of hope who proclaim with their lives that following Christ is a source of true joy. Let us never tire, then, of asking the Lord for new laborers for his harvest..."

~ Pope Francis, March 19, 2025

Let us never tire. Let us stay at it.

If you or someone you know is interested in exploring a religious vocation, please reach out to us at vocations@duluthosb.org or visit www.duluthbenedictines.org/vocations

The Special Bond Between Oblates and Sisters

by Jane Dolter, ObIOSB

At St. Scholastica Monastery, the relationship between the Sisters and their Oblates is one of deep spiritual connection, mutual support, and shared mission. Oblates are individuals who, while not members of the Benedictine community, choose to live by the principles of the Benedictine Rule in their everyday lives. These lay men and women come from various backgrounds but are united by a common desire to grow in faith, prayer, and service, much like the Sisters themselves.

The Oblate program at St. Scholastica Monastery offers individuals the opportunity to deepen their spiritual lives through regular prayer, study, and service. "Being an Oblate is a way to bring the Benedictine values of prayer, work, and community into our own lives, even though we live outside the Monastery," explained Jane Dolter, Oblate Director. "It's a way of saying yes to God, just as the Sisters have done, and living that out in our own homes, workplaces, and families."



The connection between the Oblates and the Sisters is not just spiritual but also practical. Oblates often volunteer their time and talents to assist with the Monastery's various initiatives, from fundraising events to outreach programs. In return, the Sisters offer spiritual guidance, retreats, and opportunities for reflection.

The bond between the Oblates and the Sisters at St. Scholastica Monastery continues to grow, enriching both their lives and their shared mission. It is a reminder that, while paths may differ, all are united by a common call to live out the Benedictine values of prayer, hospitality, and service to others.

If you are interested in learning more about the Oblate Program, please reach out to Jane Dolter at janedolter@msn.com or 218-391-4516.



Oblates Jane Dolter (Director), Joyce Piper, and Lori Barnstorf

Joyce Piper Makes Her Final Oblation

With joy and gratitude, the St. Scholastica Monastery community celebrated Joyce Piper as she made her Final Oblation as an Oblate on Sunday, April 6.

In making this sacred commitment, Joyce deepens her relationship with God through the spirit of the Rule of St. Benedict, joining in prayer, community, and service with the Benedictine Sisters and Oblate community.

The Song of Summertime: A Season of Sacred Presence

by Dawn Carrillo

There is something about summertime that invites the soul to exhale.

Perhaps it's the warmth that lingers in the air long after the sun has set, or the way light stretches generously across the sky, bathing everything in gold. Maybe it's the rhythm of waves on the shore of our beautiful Lake Superior, the scent of sun-warmed earth, the drone of bees moving from flower to flower.

Whatever it is, summer speaks in a voice both ancient and intimate. And if we are quiet enough, if we are willing to listen, we might just hear something holy.

The theologian Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ offers a vision of God as the great Love who *"brought forth the beauty and bounty of the evolving world out of sheer unfathomable goodness."* In summer, that goodness is not hidden—it is written on every leaf and carried on every breeze. The world feels alive in a different way, as if Creation itself is offering praise simply by being.

Spirituality in summertime doesn't demand effort. It asks for presence. It beckons us to step outside, to take off our shoes, and to feel the earth beneath our feet. To taste the sweetness of a ripe berry, to laugh without rushing, to rest without guilt. In these simple moments, there is something sacred. Something that reminds us that the same God who *"determines the number of stars and calls each of them by name"* also dwells quietly in us as we look up, really look, at the stars as they appear one by one on a warm night. In moments such as these, we slowly exhale, releasing



the breath we did not even know we were holding.

Summer is a time of abundance, yes—but not just of fruits and flowers. It is abundant with reminders of grace: the grace of beauty that needs no explanation; the grace of time that slows, stretches, allows; the grace of nature that neither strives nor apologizes, but simply grows.

And yet, this season also stirs a deeper knowing. Johnson writes of a God who is not only Creator but Comforter: *"gracious and merciful, hearing the cries of the poor... healing the brokenhearted and binding up their wounds."* The spirituality of summer does not ignore suffering, nor does it cover wounds with sunshine. Instead, it gently reveals that even in a hurting world, *beauty still breaks through*. That to sit in the shade of a tree is to remember both the fragile nature of life's beauty and the strength of its rootedness.

In this way, summer becomes a sacred teacher.

It teaches us to notice.

To receive.

To remember that the Divine is not far away, but here — woven into the fabric of life, humming in the stillness, pulsing in the warmth.

To live spiritually in the summer is to let yourself be opened by it. It is to believe, if only for a moment, that the world is not only surviving, but singing. And that you are part of that song—invited, as all of Creation is, to be fully alive.



CENTER FOR SPIRITUALITY AND ENRICHMENT

At the Center for Spirituality and Enrichment, a ministry of the Sisters of St. Scholastica, we offer quiet, reflective spaces where you can saturate yourself in the beauty and truth of the song of summer. Whether you're seeking a peaceful day away to explore the sacredness of Creation on our campus trails and in our gardens, or you feel called to join one of our retreats or programs — like *Seven Plants: An Elder's Teaching* with Rev. Marina Lachecki on June 14 — we welcome you with open hearts.

You may also choose a personal retreat, a time to immerse yourself more deeply in the presence of God. However you arrive, you will be met with the Benedictine spirit of hospitality, compassion, and love. Our sacred spaces and thoughtfully crafted programming are designed to help you encounter the God of Creation and discover your own place in the chorus of all living things—especially during this vibrant season.

To register for a retreat or program, sign up for our weekly program email, or learn more about us, please visit retreatduluth.org or call Dawn at 320.260.8233.



We would love to welcome you and hear the unique summer song that God is singing in you.

In the gracious beauty of the Season,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dawn'.

Dawn Carrillo, Director, Center for Spirituality and Enrichment

dcarrillo@duluthosb.org

retreatduluth.org

320.260.8233

Please Pray for Our Deceased Family and Friends

Dolora Young 11/5/2024

Wanda Oland-Johnson..... 12/31/2024

Delores Tingstad Kallberg.....1/5/2025

Barbara C. Johnson 1/27/2025

Marshall Bernard Thornton..... 2/23/2025

Patricia Renier3/4/2025

Rev. Daniel Dahlberg3/5/2025

Timothy J. Peters 3/15/2025

Richard J. Walkowiak 3/18/2025

Carol Wilson Spencer4/4/2025

Timothy Joseph Beaupre4/7/2025

Judy Ann Goodermote 4/26/2025

Unexpected Graces: Sister Kathleen Del Monte

by Sister Theresa Butler, Development/PR Administrative Assistant

Sometimes the path that one sets out on can change along the way. One of our more newly professed members, Sister Kathleen Del Monte, can attest to this and is grateful for the “unexpected graces” which led her to St. Scholastica Monastery.

Sister Kathleen is originally from New York, born and raised in a Catholic family, the youngest of seven children. She remembers her parents living out their Catholic faith not by preaching but by modeling and walking the walk. Kathleen and her siblings went to Catholic elementary school, where she was introduced to religious Sisters for the first time – the Dominican Sisters who were her teachers. Her Catholic education supported what her parents taught her at home and going to Mass on Sundays was a normal part of their family life. Although Kathleen did not seriously consider religious life as a child, her church community was important to her and she actively participated in parish life through high school.

Following high school graduation, Kathleen earned a bachelor’s degree with a double major in Sociology and Applied Social Relations, and History. She then went on to study Anthropology, earning a master’s degree from Syracuse University in New York. Kathleen completed her anthropology studies with a doctorate in Applied Anthropology, with a focus on education policy and program analysis, from the University of South Florida.

After Kathleen defended her dissertation and earned her PhD, she worked in her “dream job” as a Policy Analyst for the Florida Legislature, a job that perfectly fit her abilities. Kathleen had been at the Legislature for 10 years and it was going well; she had a great job doing challenging and exciting work, was well respected, and was moving up the ranks. She had everything she thought she ever wanted: a terminal degree, paid-off loans, a home in a nice neighborhood. Yet, at a certain point, it felt like something was missing. She considered getting a different job or going back to school, but nothing seemed to resonate.

A friend suggested Kathleen talk with Father Michael at her parish, Good Shepherd. After talking to Father Michael, he suggested that she talk to one of the deacons. During her first meeting with the deacon she shared what was on her mind and in her heart. To her great surprise (and not a little skepticism at the time), he told her that he thought she had a religious vocation. When she first heard this, she thought “no way!” She believed she was not “Sister material” and already felt she was on a “God path.” She came up with a lengthy list of reasons for why she believed she could not possibly be called to religious life. However, the more she thought about it the more the idea did not go away. So, she sought out spiritual direction and spent time in Eucharistic adoration asking God for guidance.

As she continued to explore, Kathleen found a website that matches a person with potential religious communities that fit them. From this website she received 58 potential matches for religious communities. The communities that most drew her attention were all monastic (at the time, she had no idea what that word meant). There were three Benedictine communities in particular whose websites she continually revisited. She reached out to these three, sharing a bit about her prayer life. One of the communities responded that she was above their age requirement but told her, “It certainly sounds like you have a Benedictine heart.” The other two Benedictine communities said, “Come and see.” One of those was St. Scholastica Monastery. After viewing our website and coming for a visit, there were many indications that this was where God was calling her. The Sisters invited her back and she knew this was home.

After she decided to become a Sister and move to Duluth, the unexpected graces she received were a further



Sr. Kathleen Del Monte speaks at the 2024 Alumni Reunion.

MONASTERY PROFILE: SISTER KATHLEEN DEL MONTE



Sr. Kathleen presents an oil lamp to a CSS graduate, signifying the bond of community, connection, and commitment with the Sisters.

indication that this was where she was called to be. When she started telling her employer, colleagues, family members, and friends about her decision, incredible things started happening – all God’s grace. One colleague with whom she had worked shared her heart in ways she never had before. Other coworkers and friends started trusting her with matters of the heart, joys and pains they had not previously shared, resulting in grace upon grace. In 2012 when she was preparing to sell her house, there was a downturn in the housing market, but to her realtor’s great surprise, within less than a week of listing her home for sale, she had three potential buyers each make an offer.

Kathleen began her journey with the Duluth Benedictines as an affiliate in December of 2011. On August 22, 2013, she became Sister Kathleen as she entered the

Novitiate. She made her first monastic profession in 2015 and her perpetual monastic profession in 2019. In October 2015, she started shadowing +Sister Mary Rochefort, the Associate Vice President for Mission Integration at The College of St. Scholastica (CSS), a position into which Sister Kathleen was hired in 2016 and that she continues today.

As Associate Vice President for Mission Integration, Sister Kathleen serves on the CSS President’s Cabinet. She is staff liaison to the Mission and Identity Committee of the CSS Board of Trustees, leads the Mission Integration Advisory Board, and serves on other College committees and task forces. Every year Sister Kathleen speaks to each of the CSS *Dignitas* classes, introducing the College’s rich Benedictine legacy, including the five core values to first year students. In addition, Sister Kathleen teaches Benedictine values to new CSS faculty, staff, and trustees as well as to other classes and groups. In 2018, Sister Kathleen earned a master’s degree in Theology from Saint Joseph’s College of Maine, taking much of her classwork online.

Sister Kathleen serves on several boards and committees, including the Benedictine Sisters Benevolent Association (BSBA) and Monastic Council, the Finance Committee, Stella Maris Academy, St. Francis Regional Medical Center, and Benedictine Living Community of Shakopee. She presents formation sessions for the CSS Board of Trustees,

has taught many of the modules for Volume 1 of the Governance Formation program and is part of the team involved in the Duluth Benedictine Ministries Benedictine Leadership Formation program for leaders of sponsored ministries.

Sister Kathleen’s favorite aspect of the three-fold vow as a Benedictine is *conversatio*, ongoing transformation. She strives each day to be willing and open to allow God to make her and re-make her. One ritual that she has is a morning offering – offering her day to God. She prays for “healing, wholeness, and transformation for myself and for all people.” Sister Kathleen recognizes that in quieting herself, she is able to find God who is already there. We are thankful for Sister Kathleen’s vocation and for the unexpected graces which led her to become a Benedictine Sister.



Sr. Kathleen Del Monte poses with Storm, the College’s Saint Bernard mascot, at the 2024 opening of the new Student Center.

“All Ways Pray” Retreat for 5th and 6th Graders

A special retreat designed for children in 5th and 6th grade took place at the Monastery in February. Led by Sister Dorene King, with support from a high school helper and former participant of “All Things Pray,” this retreat invited young students to explore and experience diverse forms of prayer, including praying with art, praying with Music, *Visio Divina* (sacred seeing) and prayer journaling.

It was a meaningful opportunity for students to deepen their spiritual lives in creative and reflective ways.



Top right: Sr. Dorene and participants work on art project.

Bottom right: Washing the feet as an act of love

Left: a walk to a woodland shrine



Visiting Students at St. James School

In celebration of National Catholic Schools Week, Sister Jayne Erickson brought smiles and joy to the students at the St. James Campus of Stella Maris Academy in Duluth. She introduced her beloved puppet friend, Buddy, and led the children in lively songs and laughter. It was a fun, faith-filled day that beautifully reflected the spirit of Catholic education and community!



Duluth Benedictine Ministries

The Benedictine Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery have a long tradition of serving the Duluth community and region through education, healthcare, and spiritual enrichment. Over 100 years ago the Sisters started a college and a hospital as the beginning of their work in higher education and healthcare. Since that time, they have established many healthcare institutions. During these years the Sisters played key roles in the staffing and governance of these institutions.

As healthcare and higher education became more complex and health systems developed, lay persons assumed more and more important roles in these facilities. During this time the Catholic identity of these institutions was maintained through their sponsorship by St. Scholastica Monastery. Sponsorship is a sacred trust through which the Benedictines extend their Catholic ministry into the future. It provides guidance and oversight to the ministries while ensuring their alignment with the Monastery's core values.

For the past ten years the Sisters of St. Scholastica studied different ways to maintain and continue the Catholic identity of the institutions they sponsor. The result of this consideration was the development of a new organization. A request was made to the Vatican in Rome to approve a ministerial public juridic person (an official Catholic entity) that would continue to provide Catholic sponsorship into the future. Named Duluth Benedictine Ministries (DBM), this new canonical organization was approved by the Vatican in December 2022. On July 1, 2023, the new ministerial public juridic person began operations.

The governing body of DBM currently consists of Benedictine Sisters and lay persons. The change in sponsorship allows committed lay persons to assume increased oversight, responsibility, and leadership for the Benedictine ministries. DBM's first annual report to the Vatican was submitted in November 2024 and accepted in January 2025. The Catholic institutions established over the years by St. Scholastica Monastery are now officially sponsored by Duluth Benedictine Ministries and will maintain their Catholic identity into the future.



Sister Lisa Maurer Featured on Real Presence Radio Reflecting on Joy, Resilience, and Faith



Sister Lisa Maurer, OSB, was recently featured on Real Presence Radio, where she was interviewed by Father Richard Kunst about her article published in the Winter issue of *The Journal of the Catholic Health Association of the United States*. The article, titled "Building a Playbook for Life to Inspire Joy and Overcome Challenges," explores how lessons from sports and faith can guide us in living with purpose, resilience, and joy. <https://www.chausa.org/news-and-publications/publications/health-progress/archives/winter-2025/reflection--building-a-playbook-for-life-to-inspire-joy--overcome-challenges>

In the interview, Sister Lisa discussed the inspiration behind her writing and how her experiences as both a coach and a Benedictine Sister helped shape the practical wisdom she shares in the article.

A podcast recording of the interview is available at <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/sister-lisa-maurer-rpl-1-14-25-1-2/id878903086?i=1000683967256>

“A Pilgrimage in Harmony”: Sisters Travel with the College Choir to Italy

This spring, Sister Danile Lynch and Sister Lisa Maurer of St. Scholastica Monastery had the unique joy of accompanying The College of St. Scholastica Choir on their spring break tour of Italy. From March 8–16, 2025, the group traveled through Florence, Rome, and Assisi, the choir performing concerts and deepening their connection to Benedictine heritage and Catholic tradition.

While the choir shared their musical gifts in sacred spaces across Italy, the journey was also a spiritual pilgrimage. Together, the group visited three extraordinary sites connected to the life of St. Benedict and his twin sister, St. Scholastica. In Norcia, the birthplace of Saints Benedict and Scholastica, the group reflected on the roots of Benedictine spirituality. At Subiaco, they stood near the cave where Benedict lived as a hermit for three years—a place of solitude that shaped his spiritual foundation. Finally, they traveled to Montecassino, the historic monastery where St. Benedict wrote the Rule of Benedict and where both saints are said to be buried.

For Sister Danile and Sister Lisa, the experience was a beautiful convergence of music, faith, and history. The presence of the Sisters offered students a living connection to the Benedictine tradition that has shaped the College since its founding.

This journey was not just a tour of historic sites, but a powerful encounter with the heart of the Benedictine story—brought to life through prayer, presence, and song.



Top: Sister Danile Lynch and Sister Lisa Maurer in front of the statues of St. Benedict and St. Scholastica in the Papal Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls
Bottom: CSS Choir



Sister Lisa Maurer Shares Reflections on Faith at Women's Day of Wisdom

Sister Lisa Maurer, OSB, was the keynote speaker at the Women's Day of Wisdom held on March 12, 2025, at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Waubun, Minnesota. The theme of the day was “Walking by Faith,” and Sister Lisa inspired attendees with walk by faith guided by values. She told stories based on the values of hospitality, stewardship, respect, and justice. Drawing on her Benedictine vocation and personal experiences, she encouraged the women to develop their own list of 'go to' values as they journey through life.

Building Connections Across Generations

Third graders from Stella Maris Academy have been corresponding with our Sisters through letter writing, as part of a special project to learn more about the lives and ministries of women religious in the Church. The students, along with College of St. Scholastica students and our Sisters, had the joy of meeting in person for the first time. It was a heartwarming gathering filled with smiles, stories, and shared faith.

Top: Sister Katie Doyle and two new friends

Bottom: Sisters and Students: all new friends!



Sister Lisa Maurer Speaks at Serra Club

Sister Lisa Maurer spoke at the April meeting of the local Serra Club. She shared with the group her experiences during her March travels to Italy with The College of St. Scholastica Choir.

Serrans are dedicated to fostering and supporting vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Sister Lisa's message emphasized the importance of encouraging young people to explore their call and the lasting impact such experiences can have on discernment.

Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery Share Their Mission on the Airwaves

Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery in Duluth, Minnesota, recently had the opportunity to share their life, mission, and call to monasticism on Real Presence Radio. Sister Jayne Erickson was one who offered listeners a glimpse into the beauty and depth of Benedictine life.

To discover more about the mission and daily life of the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery, visit duluthbenedictines.org or call 218-723-6555.



Sister Beverly Raway attends 2025 Conference of Benedictine Prioresses

The Conference provides its members with mutual assistance and encouragement to further the vision and values of Benedictine cenobitic life within the Church and contemporary society. Each year, member prioresses gather to exchange ideas, this past winter at Mount St. Scholastica in Atchison, Kansas.



Representing Communities of the Congregation of St. Benedict were:
(in front) Sister Beverly Raway and Sister Susan Hutchens (St. Mary Monastery, Rock Island, IL).

In back are: Sister Marva Coakely (Saint Martin Monastery, Nassau, Bahamas), Sister Karen Rose (St. Benedict Monastery in St. Joseph, MN), Sister Catherine Nehotte (St. Paul Monastery in Saint Paul, MN), Sister Nicole Kunze (Annunciation Monastery in Bismarck, ND), Sister Angela Hoffman (St. Placid Priory in Lacey, WA), and Sister Nancy Bauer (President of the Monastic Congregation of St. Benedict).

A New Sound of Worship: Enhanced Audio in the Chapel

Our Lady Queen of Peace Chapel at St. Scholastica Monastery has always been a sacred space for prayer, reflection, and community. Now, thanks to the generosity of our donors, the experience of worship has

been enriched with the installation of a new sound system.



The new system enhances the quality of spoken word and music, allowing all who gather – Sisters, Oblates, and guests – to fully engage in the beauty of liturgy. Whether it's the gentle resonance of prayer or the rich harmonies of hymns, the improved acoustics create a more immersive and spiritually uplifting experience.

The Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery are deeply grateful to the donors whose kindness made this upgrade possible. Their generosity not only improves the Chapel's sound but also strengthens the sense of connection within our worshipping community.

Celebrating 90 Years of Faith and Joy: Sister Mary Josephine Torborg

With hearts full of joy and gratitude, the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery gathered with close friends to celebrate a very special milestone: the 90th birthday of Sister Mary Josephine Torborg.

The celebration, held in the Monastery on a beautiful spring afternoon, was filled with laughter and a deep sense of love for a woman whose life has been a shining example of faith, service, and Benedictine spirit.

As she begins her 91st year, Sister Mary Josephine continues to be a source of inspiration – an embodiment of the Benedictine values of humility, hospitality, and love of God.



Sisters Beverly Raway (Prioress), Mary Josephine Torborg, and Jeanne Ann Weber (Subprioress)



Sister Annella Wagner Interviewed by Kare11 Extra: A Living Connection to Sainthood

Two Minnesotans – Sister Annella Zervas and Monsignor Joseph Buh – are being considered for sainthood. Remarkably, Sister Annella Wagner of St. Scholastica Monastery has personal ties to both. At 95, Sister Annella Wagner says she's living proof of the power of prayer. Her mother, facing life-threatening complications during pregnancy, wore a relic of Sister Annella Zervas and prayed for her intercession. Her recovery was swift, and Sister Annella was born in 1929 and named in honor of the would-be saint.

Sister Annella also has roots in Buh Township, named after Monsignor Joseph Buh. "He had a missionary zeal to bring God to as many people as he could," she recalls. The Monastery shares a deep connection to Monsignor Buh. Prioress Sister Beverly Raway notes that two Sisters – Bernard Coleman and Verona

LaBud – wrote *Masinaigans: The Little Book* about his ministry to Native communities. The Sisters' foundress, Mother Scholastica Kerst, was a close friend of Buh, who presided at her funeral in 1911.

As Sister Annella reflects on these saintly lives, she offers a simple reminder: "They've always encouraged us to move forward—to care for ourselves, the earth, and one another."

To see the full interview with Sister Annella Wagner, visit KARE11.com and search for "Annella Wagner".

A Special St. Patrick's Day Performance!

On St. Patrick's Day, the Sisters and visitors on Benet Hall were treated to a delightful musical performance by Terrence and Marge Smith and other musicians! Their beautiful music filled the hall with joy, bringing smiles and tapping toes as we celebrated the day.



Sisters Celebrate the Feast of St. Benedict with the Community and College

On March 21, the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery joyfully celebrated the Feast of St. Benedict, welcoming friends from The College of St. Scholastica and the wider community to share in the occasion.

During the liturgy, prayers and reflections centered on St. Benedict's enduring wisdom – his call to listen, to seek God in all things, and to live a life of balance, humility, and service. Music, led by members of the College community, added a spirit of celebration to the solemn occasion.

The Feast of St. Benedict is a treasured tradition for the Sisters, a day to reflect on their spiritual heritage and give thanks for the bonds they share with the many people who walk alongside them in mission.



Top: Our Oblates renew their Oblation at Mass on the Feast of St. Benedict
Bottom: Accompanied by a cutout of Bishop Daniel Felton of the Diocese of Duluth, Sister Lisa Maurer and Olivia Scheibl wait to welcome students.

Mardi Gras

Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) has a long tradition in Christianity as the day when a household would use up its meat, dairy, eggs, and alcohol before the start of the Lenten fast that began on Ash Wednesday. Over the centuries it grew into a riotous day (or month) of excess and merriment. Here in the Monastery our celebration is more sedate, with a dinner of pizza, beer or soda, and chocolate, all provided and served by the leadership team of Benedictine (formerly known as Benedictine Health System).

This year we welcomed the local Celtic group Eira, led by Jim Ofsthun, to enjoy music from Scotland, Ireland, Newfoundland, Wales, and America. We joined in singing familiar ballads and gave long applause for a night of joy.

Thank you to Benedictine leadership and Eira for making this night memorable.



Top Left: Sisters Lois Ann Glaudel and Elizabeth Farias

Top Right: Sisters Theresa Spinler and Jayne Erickson

Bottom Left: Fr. Corbin Eddy and Sisters Mary Susan Dewitt, Jeanne Ann Weber, and Beverly Raway

Bottom Right: Music Group Eira

Celebrating Generous Hearts: Volunteer Appreciation Dinner Honors Monastery Volunteers

A spirit of gratitude filled the air at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner held recently at St. Scholastica Monastery, where the Sisters joyfully honored the many individuals who give so generously of their time and talents in service to the community.

The evening included a heartfelt acknowledgment of years of volunteer service, with special recognition given to several long-time volunteers whose steady dedication continues to make a meaningful difference in the life of the Monastery.

In addition, the Sisters extended their deep thanks to the Monastery's last two volunteer coordinators, Kathy Noble and Mary Tanner, whose leadership and care have helped nurture a welcoming and organized volunteer program.

Guests were treated to beautiful entertainment by soprano Carolyn Mikel and pianist Derek Kohlgraf, graduating seniors from The College of St. Scholastica, whose performances added a joyful and uplifting tone to the evening.

The dinner was a celebration not only of time and effort but of the love and faith that volunteers bring to the Monastery each day. The Sisters are filled with gratitude for this generous community of supporters who walk alongside them in mission and ministry.

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer at St. Scholastica Monastery, please reach out to Lisa Roseth at 218-723-6540 or lisaroseth@duluthosb.org.



- 1 - Sr. Jayne Erickson,
Mistress of Ceremonies
- 2 - Joan and Lyle Johnson
- 3 - Listening to the music
- 4 - Heidi Johnson and Sr. Lois Eckes
- 5 - Some of our beloved volunteers
- 6 - Soprano Carolyn Mikel
accompanied by Derek Kohlgraf.

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

After the excitement of Mardi Gras, we settle into the solemn quiet of Lent. When we enter on Ash Wednesday, the Chapel has been stripped of greenery and flowers, and our prayers deepen with the coming sorrow of Good Friday. Sister Theresa Spinler prepares a display with symbols from the Sunday Gospel readings. Each Saturday at Evening Prayer, we listen to a reflection written by a Sister or an Oblate, a theological and personal interpretation of the readings for the next day.

On the First Sunday of Lent, the Benedictine Oblates present a basket of written and sealed *Bona Opera* — Lenten resolutions offered up in prayer — and the Sisters, too, write their own Good Works for the coming six weeks. After Communion that day, Oblate Director Jane Dolter and the Oblate team reflect on Catholic Sisters Week, thanking the Sisters for sharing Christ's light. A special candle is given to Sister Beverly Raway for the whole Community and another to Sister Luella Wegscheid for those living on Benet Hall, a symbol of gratitude for our witness of faith. We are blessed in turn by the Oblates who live out the Rule of Benedict with love.

Holy Week begins with blessing the palms on Sunday. We listen to the story of Jesus' joyful entry into Jerusalem, followed by the sobering account of his trial and execution. On Thursday we begin the Triduum and will keep silence except for prayer for three days.

On Holy Thursday at midday, we bring the three Holy Oils that were blessed to service at the Diocesan Chrism Mass: the Oil of Catechumens, for those preparing for baptism; the Consecrated Chrism, for Confirmation and Holy Orders, and for consecrating churches, vessels of the altar, and water to the service of God; and the Oil of the Sick, to bring physical and spiritual healing for those who are ill or nearing death.

That evening, after the Mass of the Lord's Supper, ritual foot-washing, and two hours of Adoration, the tabernacle stands empty, and the sanctuary light is moved with the Holy Eucharist into the sacristy. Its absence is deeply disturbing, without its comforting light to dispel darkness and assure us of God's presence.

On Good Friday and Holy Saturday, each Liturgy of the Hours begins with a cantor chanting the *Lamentations of Jeremiah*. At the Good Friday service, we listen again to the account of Jesus' passion and death and venerate the Cross with a bow. Some of us attend the Tenebrae service in the darkened Cathedral of the Holy Rosary.



Top: Lenten display created by Sr. Theresa Spinler at the front of the chapel, with +Sr. Mary Charles McGough's woodcut *The Return of the Prodigal Son*
Middle: Holy Oils Bottom: Empty sanctuary light

Lent, Holy Week, and Easter

Holy Saturday is quiet, strangely empty. We continue with Lamentations. We walk in the forest, journal in our rooms, rest in the silence of this day that somehow exists outside of time. In this year's *Not By Bread Alone: Daily Reflections for Lent* Daniel P. Horan quotes the theologian Karl Rahner who wrote,

"Holy Saturday is a strange day, mysterious and silent. It is a day without a liturgy. This is, as it were, a symbol of everyday life which is a mean between the abysmal terror of Good Friday and the exuberant joy of Easter. Our ordinary life is also mostly in between the two, in the center which is also a transition and can only be this."

Mr. Horan then calls his readers to find God in the in-between, unremarkable moments of everyday life.

We gather again in chapel for the Easter Vigil service, the great celebration of Christ's resurrection, the victory of life over death, light over darkness. It begins in the Gathering Space, where the new Paschal candle is lit and carried in procession into the darkened chapel. Small tapers are lit from its fire and the flame is spread throughout the darkness like the Shekinah glory, the radiant light of the divine presence of God in the world.



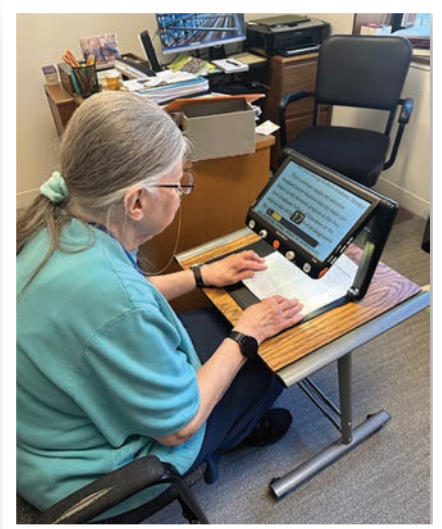
- 1 - On Good Friday, Sr. Jeanne Ann Weber uncovers the cross.
- 2 - Sr. Jayne Erickson sings the Exsultet, lighted by Sr. Agnes Atai and Sr. Joana Charles.
- 3 - Lighting the Paschal Candle: Sr. Danile Lynch, Sr. Beverly Raway, Fr. Corbin Eddy
- 4 - The procession fills the chapel with light.
- 5 - We sing *Baptized in Water, Filled with the Spirit* as the font fills.

Seeing with New Eyes: Visual Aids Support Sisters with Low Vision

Thanks to the kindness and generosity of donors, Sisters at St. Scholastica Monastery now have access to new visual aid technology designed to support those experiencing low vision.

Sisters have benefitted from the addition of state-of-the-art magnifiers and screen-enlarging devices that make it easier to read, write, and participate more fully in community life. These tools are not only practical, but also deeply meaningful—they support the dignity, independence, and spiritual engagement of each person.

At right, Sister Donna Schroeder uses a CloverBook magnifier that allows her to read books and documents.



ANNUAL Monastery Bazaar

Thursday, December 4, 2025


(Hours to be determined at a later date.)

Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a joyful day of community, creativity, and holiday spirit at the St. Scholastica Monastery Christmas Bazaar!

We are gratefully accepting donations of:

- Handmade crafts and creations
- Gently used Christmas decorations
- Gently used household items

(Please, no electronics or VHS tapes)

 **Your contributions help make this beloved event a success!**

For questions or to arrange a donation, please contact: Lisa Roseth
Director of Development and Public Relations
218-723-6540 | lisaroseth@duluthosb.org



+Sister Agnes Fleck, OSB

Sister Agnes Fleck died on March 5, 2025. She was born on March 18, 1935, into a small Catholic family of Slovenian and Irish descent in Wilmington, Delaware. When she was a young child, her family moved to Virginia, Minnesota, to be near her father's family. John and Agnes gave their children John, James, and Agnes a good Catholic education. Her second-grade teacher Sister Lucy planted in her the seed of a Benedictine vocation. In 1949 she came to Duluth to attend Stanbrook Hall High School as an aspirant, and after graduating in 1953 entered St. Scholastica Priory.

The next July she began her novitiate year and took the name Sister John Marie in honor of her parents, though she later reverted to her baptismal name.

In 1955 she began teaching in parish schools in Minnesota, first in Cloquet and then in Wayzata and Minneapolis. Her students found her kind and respectful, but she also expected their best effort. She helped them find their creative voice and many developed a lifelong passion for learning. During the summers she taught catechism in Ely and studied at The College of St. Scholastica (CSS), graduating with degrees in Education, Theology, and English.

At Central High School in Duluth, she taught English, composition, and cinematics, and at CSS composition and mythology. After earning a master's degree in literature at the University of Minnesota, she studied in London, England, and then for almost 40 years at CSS taught British and American literature and drama, earning her nickname of 'Sister Shakespeare'. She organized many student bus trips to the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis and the Festival Theatre in Stratford, Ontario, giving students their first experience of high-quality stage productions.

Sister Agnes traveled the world on a small budget, staying in youth hostels and rubbing shoulders with students from all over the world. Language was no barrier: she either learned another or managed without it. When told that a woman whom she

intended to visit didn't speak a word of English, Sister Agnes replied "That's all right—we'll manage!"

For years she presented scholarly papers at the annual meeting of the Shakespeare Association of America, and every five years presented at the international association, traveling to Stratford-upon-Avon in England and to Berlin, Tokyo, Valencia, and Brisbane. She studied Japanese tragic drama, music, and mythology in Japan, and in Beijing, Xian, and Guangzhou she studied Chinese arts and culture,

returning for a year to teach English at Xinxiang University in northern Henan Province. There she found the students eager to discuss Shakespearean drama. In 2004, she traveled to Italy with the Benedictine Rome Study Program, visiting Rome, Venice, Monte Cassino, Subiaco, and Norcia.

In 2014 she retired after 61 years as a teacher but continued to welcome visitors to talk about drama and literature. Her face would light up as she eagerly discussed Shakespeare's plays and shared her adventures with visitors. She brought joy and the light of Christ to all whom she met. In a 2012 interview, she shared how rich her life had been. "Many times, I took for granted the persons who have

given me so much, but I am grateful to all. I hope I have given a measure of love for this world and its beauty back to all, especially to my students." Now she is reunited in Heaven with thousands whose lives she touched.

At her Mass of Christian Burial, Fr. Corbin Eddy said each of us should have two pockets. In one should be the message, "I am dust and ashes" and in the other, "For me the whole universe was made." Sister Agnes carried both in her heart.

She was preceded in death by her parents and both brothers. She is survived by her sister-in-law Elizabeth (James) Fleck of Suwanee, Georgia, by nephews, nieces, many close friends and colleagues, and by the Sisters of St. Scholastica Monastery.



+Sister Johnetta Maher, OSB

Sister Johnetta Maher, OSB, lived a long and joyful life of service, dying on March 30, 2025 at age 102. She was born November 7, 1922 to John Stephen and Mayme (Grondine) Maher and baptized as Genevieve. Growing up in Watersmeet, a small town in the western Upper Peninsula of Michigan, she fondly remembered picking wild berries with her brother John and sisters Patricia, Margaret, and Frances. Strawberries were her lifelong favorite. Her father worked for the railroad, which allowed them to travel at no charge to Green Bay and Chicago, visit family and friends, attend the 1933 Chicago World Fair, and get a taste of the larger world.

In high school, Genevieve's home economics teacher inspired her to consider a career in the same field. When she was a senior, Sisters Prudentia Morin and Monica Simon visited her school as recruiters for The College of St. Scholastica (CSS). They came to Genevieve's home to meet her family and she recalled being embarrassed because their front porch was being rebuilt and the Sisters had to 'walk the plank' to reach the front door. Her family greeted the Sisters warmly and invited them to stay with the Mahers whenever they were in town, and they became honored members of the family.

In 1940 Genevieve enrolled at CSS and majored in Home Economics. Drawn to the Benedictine way of life, she entered the Community in her sophomore year and took the name Johnetta. She did her student teaching at Stanbrook Hall, the Community's high school, and continued there for five years after graduation. She then taught at Cathedral High, while studying during the summer at St. Louis University in Missouri for her MA in Education.

In 1965 she became an associate professor in Home Economics at CSS and was Chair of the Behavioral Arts and Sciences Division. When the state legislature mandated establishment of standards for teachers

in the Early Childhood Family Education programs, Sister Johnetta developed three new courses for teacher education and submitted the plan to the State Board of Teaching. CSS was the first in Minnesota to receive state certification, and Sister received the Burlington Northern Education Award for her work.

Sister Johnetta enjoyed traveling and visited Ireland, Paris, London, and Rome. She took a six-day voyage with her friend Sister Benita Hayden on a Great Lakes freighter

from Duluth to Chicago and back, as guests of Sister Benita's brother, the laker's engineer, and rang the boat's bell when passing under bridges. She played cards to win. A month before her death she gave Sister Mary Josephine Torborg "The Look" after losing the first hand, so Sister Mary Jo let her win the rest, a last gift to her long-time friend.

After retiring from teaching in 1998, Sister Johnetta cared for the artwork, fine furniture, and artifacts in the Heritage Room. For her, each item told a story of a gracious way of living and warm hospitality. She cherished each item for its beauty and history but, shortly before surrendering this ministry, said, "These things have

given me joy over the years, but they were meant to be used. It is time to let them bring joy to others." Some of the furniture and artwork was used in the restoration of formal parlors at CSS, and the rest went to people who appreciated their history and beauty.

As coordinator for events at the Monastery's dining room, Sister Johnetta maintained high standards in table setting and service. She crocheted baby afghans and her famous yarn cats, and followed her mother Mayme's advice who, at her 105th birthday, said, "I lived this long because I kept my mind active, I helped others, and I prayed." Sister Johnetta will be remembered for her radiant smile, her deep love for God and ministry, and her appreciation of beauty.



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Icon of the Holy Trinity by Meridith Schifsky

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